

# **BLUE SHEET**

## **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)**

### **Preliminary Summary Report of Serious CAL FIRE Injuries, Illnesses, Accidents and Near-Miss Incidents**



#### **Lodge Complex Burnover**

**August 8, 2014**

**Lodge Complex**

**14-CA-MEU-007202**

**14-CA-MEU-007575**

#### **California Northern Region**

This Preliminary Summary Report is intended as an aid in accident prevention, and to provide factual information from the first 24 hours of the accident review. To that end it is published and distributed within a short time frame. Information contained within may be subject to revision as further investigation is conducted, and other reports and documents are received.

## **SYNOPSIS**

On August 8, 2014, at approximately 1830 hours, multiple firefighting personnel were overrun by a flaming fire front on Branch IV, in the area of the Division P/W break, while providing fire suppression efforts on the Lodge Complex in central Mendocino County.

## **NARRATIVE**

Multiple firefighting resources were assigned to a firing operation in Division P near the Division P/W break. After a safety briefing was given, safety zones established, crews began a firing operation. At approximately 1815 hours additional resources sent from Leggett Staging arrived into the area to support the firing operation. The main fire intensity and picked up dramatically during that time as it transitioned from a ground fire to a fast running canopy fire.

At approximately 1825 hours, Lodge Air Attack made notifications to ground resources a fast moving crown fire was going to impact the ridge where multiple white engines were parked. Crews in the area experienced a sudden increase in heat and darkening smoke and began working their way out of the area.

## **INJURIES**

The three local government firefighters suffered first and second degree burns, and the five fire crew inmates suffered first and second degree burns. All personnel were released from various burn units by the following day.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS**

- Maintain prompt communications with your forces, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.
- Base all actions on current and expected behavior of the fire.
- Wear all appropriate PPE while engaged in fire line assignments.